

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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November 24, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPOINTMENT AND SALARY FOR COUNTY COUNSEL (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation to appoint and set the salary of Mary Wickham to serve as County Counsel.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

- 1. Appoint Mary Wickham to the position of County Counsel at an annual salary of \$303,417, effective November 24, 2015.
- 2. Instruct the Director of Personnel to execute an at-will employment contract which is approved as to form by County Counsel.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended actions is to appoint a County Counsel for the County of Los Angeles and to set the salary for the position for Mary Wickham.

Mary Wickham has extensive experience in public sector law and has served in various capacities during her tenure with the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Wickham started her career in 1990 as a Law Clerk with the Los Angeles Superior Court. In March 1992, Ms. Wickham moved to Washington D.C. to work for the Attorney General's Office representing the District of Columbia in mental health commitment proceedings. In November 1995, Ms. Wickham returned to the County of Los Angeles to work for the Office of County Counsel. Over the next 20 years, Ms. Wickham performed a variety of roles including assisting in the development and implementation of the County's Policy of Equity.

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This experience led her to become the Executive Director of the County Equity Oversight Panel overseeing all aspects of the countywide workplace Equity Program. In June 2015, Ms. Wickham was appointed as Interim County Counsel serving as legal counsel to the Board of Supervisors and to all County departments.

Given Ms. Wickham's extensive legal experience, it is recommended that the Board approve Ms. Wickham's annual salary of \$303,417, effective immediately.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of these recommendations will further the County of Los Angeles' Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability to maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, operations, and strong fiscal management to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The cost of the recommended annual salary will be absorbed within the Office of County Counsel's current budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended salary will provide appropriate compensation to Ms. Wickham to perform the duties of County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Implementation of these recommendations will provide leadership for the Office of County Counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

Suchi a. Hamai

SACHI A. HAMAI

Chief Executive Officer

SAH:JJ:MTK NV:SO:AP:mst

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors Auditor-Controller County Counsel Human Resources